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# Promotion and maintenance of the rule of law: action against corruption and bribery

## Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 51/191 of 16 December 1996, adopted the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, contained in the annex to the resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, on the progress made towards implementation of the resolution and steps taken by Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant institutions to combat corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions; on the results of the work in this regard undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other bodies of the United Nations system; and on measures taken in accordance with the resolution to promote social responsibility and the elimination of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions.

2. In its resolution 52/87 of 12 December 1997 on international cooperation against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, the General Assembly agreed that all States should take all possible measures to further the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to provide a report on steps taken to implement the provisions of the Declaration for compilation by the Secretary-General and consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with a view to examining further steps to be taken for the full implementation of the Declaration.

3. Pursuant to the above requests, two reports, which were submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth and seventh sessions, will be made available to the General Assembly. They contain an analysis of the information provided by Member States on action taken against corruption and bribery and relevant activities undertaken by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, other Secretariat entities, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption, held at Buenos Aires from

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17 to 21 March 1997, on ways and means of countering corruption and bribery, including in international commercial transactions.[1]

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[1] Report of the Secretary-General on promotion and maintenance of the rule of law: action against corruption and bribery (E/CN.15/1997/3); report of the Expert Group meeting on Corruption, held at Buenos Aires from 17 to 21 March 1997 (E/CN.15/1997/3/Add.1); and report of the Secretary-General on promotion and maintenance of the rule of law: action against corruption and bribery (E/CN.15/1998/3).